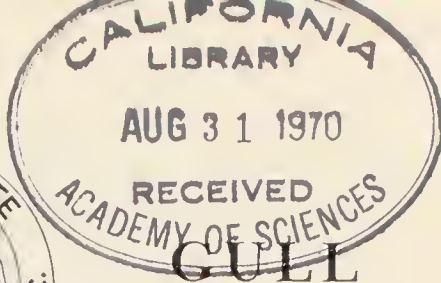


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THE

MONTHLY

GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 52

Berkeley, Calif.

September 1970

Number 9



Golden Eagles on power tower, Merced County.

V. & G. Homem photo  
800 MM

### DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Recent rejection by the California Senate of a bill authorizing necessary control of wild burros by the Department of Fish and Game may prove a disaster for certain small herds of Bighorns. Excessive numbers of wild burros are destroying both water and vegetation at the comparatively few springs which support the Desert Bighorn and other native mammals in desert areas of California. The Bighorn Sheep status is critical.

The bill introduced by Senator H. L. Richardson of Arcadia did not propose to eliminate the burros. The wild burros already have an extensive refuge set aside for them, comprising vast acreage surrounding Death Valley National Monument. Emotional and sentimental statements by several Senators who apparently idolize the burro as a symbol of the Old West cast scorn and derision on the proposal to control their numbers. This misplaced sentiment and ignorance of biologic and ecologic facts has been flaunted by lawmakers of other Western states, who would allow their beloved jackasses to stomp into oblivion many other native animals and flora.

Although we cannot in this column publicly endorse any particular legislative bills for this or any other purpose, we can urge and expect many Audubon members to demand that new measures be introduced, toward the necessary, humane control of wild burros where they endanger Desert Bighorn and other native mammals.

**A super-highway which would bisect the Bighorn range in Anza-Borrego State Park in San Diego County is still being advocated by certain business and political interests in that part of California.** This ecologic disaster would cut off the sheep from summer watering holes and commit other irreparable damage to the region, say experts. The State Park and Recreation Commission has protested this road plan.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

Harold Gilliam wrote an excellent column about Paul Covel and the Lake Merritt Wildlife Sanctuary in *This World* of the S.F. Sunday *Examiner and Chronicle*, July 26.

### FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

**Sun. Sept. 6**—Come and enjoy a pleasant bird walk through the fuchsia gardens, the arboretum and Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park from **9 to 12**. Meet at the intersection of Stanyon and Hayes at the entrance to the fuchsia gardens. Lunch optional. Leader, Patricia Triggs.

**Sun. Sept. 13**—A morning trip to Alameda for shorebirds. Meet at Lincoln Park, High St. and Santa Clara, at **8:30 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Elsie Roemer.

**Wed. Sept. 16**—Same trip, but meet at **9:30 a.m.**

**Sat. Sept. 19**—Rodeo Lagoon, Fort Cronkhite. Cross Golden Gate Bridge, take Sausalito Exit at North end of bridge and turn left at about 2 tenths of a mile. Go through tunnel and wait in parking lot at other end. Please

approach quietly; don't scare the warblers. Meet at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Aubrey Burns, author of *Bird Watching*.

**Sat. Sept. 26**—Coyote Hills Regional Park, north of Dumbarton Bridge and Newark. From Nimitz Freeway 17 take Jarvis Ave. Exit. Drive West on Jarvis to Newark Blvd. (first signal light), turn right for about a mile and then left on Patterson Ranch Road (at the Stanford Research Institute sign). Meet at **9 a.m.** in the big parking lot south of the rocky hill. Bring lunch. Leader, Vi Homem.

**Dates to save: October 3** for a walk through Golden Gate Park.

**October 10-11** for an overnight trip to Point Reyes. Make motel reservations with Mr. Brady, Inverness Motel, Inverness.

**October 17** for Bear Valley. **October 31** for Bodega Bay. October Gull will have details.—MISS PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*.

### MONTEREY BOAT TRIP-OCTOBER 3

On **Saturday, October 3**, Golden Gate Audubon Society will have a boat trip for **HARDY SEAFARERS** to study migrating seabirds. Three boats will leave Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey at **9 a.m.** and return at 3 p.m. Fare will be \$7 per person, payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society. Please send check *with stamped, self-addressed envelope* to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco CA 94109. Names and addresses of guests must be included. Details will be sent with the acknowledgment. Reservations will close September 20 or earlier if boats are filled.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA

### MOVING ??

**Please send a change of address notice promptly** to Mrs. Zella Cushman, 3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123. The Post Office will not forward *The Gull*, and Golden Gate Audubon Society has to pay for the returned copies. Our bill has been averaging about \$3 per month!

### AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING RECEIVES GRANT

Our Audubon Nature Training Program received a \$2,000 grant from the Sears Roebuck Foundation to further our educational work. The *Berkeley Daily Gazette* covered this good news on July 29 with a photo of our Golden Gate officers and Mr. Percy Menzies, a representative of the Sears Roebuck Foundation.

Fall classes for teachers, parents and youth group leaders will start in September. For a complete schedule write or phone Audubon Nature Training, 1749 Grove St., Berkeley, CA 94709 (549-1038).

### STUDENTS HELP SAVE TUBBS ISLAND

A good news item deserves reprinting.—The graduating class of Redwood High School in Larkspur wanted to do something really useful with its class treasury of \$2,000, so it voted to give the money to help The Nature Conservancy save Lower Tubbs Island as a wildlife sanctuary. The National Audubon Society's *Audubon Leader* published this encouraging news for distribution to all chapters and affiliates.

According to the *Oakland Tribune*, Class President Joseph Enzen-



sperger said, "Tubbs Island is a living thing, and all of my classmates will be able to say that they helped make this island stay alive."

(Additional contributions may be sent to The Nature Conservancy, S.F. Bay Project, c/o Wells Fargo Bank, P.O. Box 26687, San Francisco CA 94126.)

### YOSEMITE FIELD TRIP REPORT—JUNE 6

For the second straight year we failed to see Calliope Hummingbirds at Rocky Point, where they have nested in the past. This is one of the many areas in the park that have been disturbed by too much human intrusion. The Dipper's nest under the bridge to Happy Isles had been destroyed by children, but fortunately Dippers had nested successfully in another area where we saw two adults feeding young.

After having been absent for a year, the Great Gray Owl's appearance highlighted the field trip. For one hour he posed on top of a small conifer opposite Perigoy Meadow. What is the future for this rare U.S. nesting bird? The high meadows he relies upon for his rodent food are being trampled down for unauthorized camping. The surrounding areas are also being burned by illegal campfires. We have learned that the young owls did not survive this year.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA

### FIELD ORNITHOLOGY CLASS

This fall George Peyton will give his course in Field Ornithology starting in **late September**. The course will consist of two evening classes at The Oakland Museum and four Saturday field trips. In addition to this course, Mr. Peyton is planning Ecology Weekends at Yosemite National Park and the Monterey Peninsula in October. For information, write to 1956 Webster St., Oakland CA 94612, or call 444-3131 (week days) and 531-5588 (nights and weekends).

### DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Oakland Museum Association will offer a new training program to prepare volunteers to serve as Docents (interpretive guides) in The Oakland Museum.

The Natural Sciences program consists of two semesters of college-level courses in Ecology in addition to field trips, communications and in-gallery training during the fall of 1970 and spring 1971. Personal interviews for applicants will be held during **early September**.

Please call the Oakland Museum Association at 893-4257 for further information.

### OAKLAND MUSEUM PROGRAMS

Walt Disney's film, "The Living Desert" will be shown Friday night, **September 18**, in The Oakland Museum. Additional Disney Wildlife Adventure Films are scheduled for Sunday at 1:30 and 3, as follows: "Mysteries of the Deep" **Sept. 6**, "Seal Island" **Sept. 20**, and "Nature's Half Acre" **Sept. 27**. For information call 273-3884.

The art exhibit of the National Parks Service, "Artists in the Parks", which was first shown at the Audubon Convention in Seattle, will open in the Natural Sciences Gallery in mid-September.

### NATURAL SCIENCE COURSES BY UC EXTENSION

Natural environment studies will be featured in UC Extension's fall adult education program.

"Plant Ecology of the Mendocino Coast"-Sept. 25-27 and "Plant Ecology of the Monterey Coast"-Oct. 2-4 are weekend programs. Also planned for October 2-4 is "Giants of the Sea: Whales, Seals and Other Marine Mammals," with sessions at Steinhart Aquarium and Marine World.

"Ecology of the San Francisco Bay Region—An Aerial View" focuses on land use problems, pollution, and open space needs. It includes sessions October 3-4 with an aerial survey of the Bay Area at a date to be arranged.

For a free brochure write to University of California Extension, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley CA 94720.

### NEPAL AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

The Sierra Club will sponsor two unusual natural history trips next spring.

One, in two separate groups with departures on April 2 and 23, will visit the Kathmandu valley in Nepal with a short side trip to the Terai country to see the profusion of tropical wildlife, and a two weeks' trek to the mountains to see the rhododendrons in bloom and birds in migration. Each of the groups will be accompanied by one of the Dr. Flemings (either senior or junior) of Kathmandu, both of whom are among the country's foremost naturalists. Duration of the trip is 4 weeks. Leaders are Dr. Martin Griffin and Alfred Schmitz.

The other spring trip will be to the Galápagos Islands in February. On sailboats owned and operated by knowledgeable European settlers of Santa Cruz Island, 23 days will be spent exploring the islands and studying their wildlife. Duration of the trip is four weeks. For details of both trips write to Outings Committee, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco CA 94104.

### APPRECIATION AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

For the **Audubon Nature Training Program—**

*In Memory of:*

Otto C. Gilerest ..... *Gift of:* Helen G. Roller

For **Audubon Canyon Ranch—**

*In Memory of:*

Helen Bocher ..... *Gift of:* Graee Lambert

Teressa Burrill ..... Ruby S. Marks, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Hilton,

Mrs. P. D. (Ruth) Bartlett

Maria T. Davis ..... Katherine & Kenneth Baker

*In Appreciation of:*

Vi Homem's bird slide show ..... *Gift of:* The Bird Section of UC Faculty Club

A special gift to the Canyon Ranch memorial fund was made by Vernon L. Goodin.—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

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**FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

June 10, 13—Blue-winged Teal in breeding plumage, Coyote Hills Regional Park—photographed by Clarence Maynard.

July 5—Little Blue Heron near Canal St., San Rafael—Bill Pursell, Aubrey Burns.

July 7—Bobolink at Lower Tubbs Island—Ann Follis, Mary Bell Van Voorhees.

July 11—On a fishing boat 7 miles beyond the Farallon Islands, Val DaCosta and Dr. Gordon Meade (New Jersey) saw 20 Pink-footed Shearwaters with thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, 4 Black-footed Albatross, Fulmars only 10 feet off stern of boat, Skua over the bow, one Rhinoceros Auklet and about 4,000 Cassin's Auklets on the water.

July 15—Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Lake Lagunitas, Marin County—Inez Troxell and Claire Hellman.

Aug. 4—Hermit Warbler in pines at Coyote Hills Regional Park—Jane Dang, Trix Machlis, et al.

*Observations in the City:* On June 1 Mary Hutehinson saw a male Bullock's Oriole in her garden on Filbert Street in San Francisco. On June 11 Tommy Angell observed a Chukar on the roof of the Adam Grant Bldg. at Bush and Sansome in downtown San Francisco. Early in June Mr. and Mrs. Lewis K. Land observed family groups of Western Tanagers in the tall eucalyptus trees near the Arboretum and a Red Crossbill inside the Arboretum. About the end of June young Western Tanagers were feeding on a red-flowering eucalyptus in their garden near the Lincoln golf course (every day until July 12). From July 5 to 12 they also saw a Hooded Oriole on the same red-flowering eucalyptus.

*In Arizona*—4 Five-striped Sparrows returned to the area near the roadside rest 5 miles south of Patagonia—presumably nesting—observed by Val and Bob DaCosta and Bill Pursell.

*Pelagic Observations* from our seagoing member, W. Patrick Dunbar, written June 6 on board the U.S.N.S. *Longview*:

"We have recently spent several days in the proximity of Nihoa Island, one of the leeward of the Hawaiian chain and I believe part of the bird refuge. I counted thirteen species of birds, all apparently from that island. The terns were the most common—Fairy, Sooty, Gray-backed, Blue-gray Noddy and White-eapped Noddy. Manx, Wedge-tailed and Christmas Island Shearwaters, Brown and Blue-faced Boobies, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Bulwer's Petrel, and last but far from least, the Great Frigate. The latter I've seen several times before, but only two or three together. Here I saw one flock that must have numbered 50 birds, wheeling, diving, sailing from a hundred feet above the water to a thousand feet or more. I counted 16 one day sailing along following the ship just a little above mast height. This vessel has 20 or 30 antennas of different types. One in particular is a tall whip or pole with four horizontal cross pieces on top, each with a button or knob on the end. Several Frigates, as they glided



by, reached out with their large beaks and grasped one of the projections as though to carry it away. The birds seemed unconcerned when the tension on the cross piece snapped the knob out of their bills. I've often wondered if in the evening the Frigates always go to roost. This morning at 7:15 the mate and I were standing on the bridge when we saw a Frigate and I asked him where we were. The chart showed the nearest land as Laysan Island 160 miles to the northwest."

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Golden Gate Audubon Society financial statement for fiscal year ending May 31, 1970

#### LIABILITIES

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Received for Audubon Nature Training | 7,250.13 |
| Paid out for Audubon Nature Training | 683.30   |
| Held for Audubon Nature Training     | 6,566.83 |

#### ASSETS

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Cash in banks, May 31, 1969 | 8,246.13 |
|-----------------------------|----------|

#### Receipts

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Membership dues     | 8,244.50 |
| Gull subscriptions  | 283.68   |
| Field trip s        | 4,946.68 |
| Annual dinner       | 320.00   |
| Gifts               | 355.84   |
| Interest on savings | 221.78   |
| Field list sales    | 84.30    |
| Wildlife films      | 1,478.89 |
| Miscellaneous       | 97.67    |

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| NET RECEIPTS | 16,033.34 |
|--------------|-----------|

#### Disbursements

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Telephone and postage            | 613.87   |
| Field trips                      | 3,737.07 |
| Gull printing and mailing        | 2,780.63 |
| Meeting and annual dinner        | 570.00   |
| Wildlife films                   | 1,352.48 |
| Miscellaneous operating expenses | 2,145.87 |
| Gifts and donations              | 2,245.00 |
| Transferred to savings           | 1,262.98 |

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS         | 14,706.90 |
| Cash in banks, May 31, 1970 | 9,572.57  |

EDWARD ORMONDROYD, *Treasurer*



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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1970

THE GULL

September

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

|                                       |                               |                                    |       |          |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| President                             | Joshua Barkin                 | Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley  | 94708 | 524-2495 |
| Vice President                        | Mrs. Richard Johnson          | 1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland        | 94602 | 533-7118 |
| Vice President                        | George Peyton, Jr.            | 4304 Adelaide, Oakland             | 94619 | 531-5588 |
| Treasurer                             | Edward Ormondroyd             | 2736 Russell St., Berkeley         | 94705 | 549-1385 |
| Recording Secretary                   | Mrs. Jane Dang                | 1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley  | 94708 | 848-0253 |
| Corresponding Secretary               | Mrs. Raymond Higgs            | 340 Esplanade No. 20, Pacifica     | 94044 | 355-6264 |
| Director                              | Robert E. Conrath             | 1980 Washington St., San Francisco | 94118 | 776-1418 |
| Director                              | Mrs. Leonard Machlis          | 1871 Thousand Oaks Bl., Berkeley   | 94707 | 525-8473 |
| Director                              | Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.      | 3212 Jackson St., San Francisco    | 94118 | 567-4037 |
| Editor                                | Mrs. Violet Homem             | 6911 Armour Dr., Oakland           | 94611 | 339-1886 |
| Field Trips Chairman                  | Miss Patricia Triggs          | 2038-33rd Ave., San Francisco      | 94116 | 664-8502 |
| Membership Chairman                   | Miss Aileen Pierson           | 810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco    | 94132 | 587-4163 |
| Membership Secretary                  | Mrs. Zella Cushman            | 3156 Gough, San Francisco          | 94123 | 673-5310 |
| Nature Training                       | Miss Phyllis Lindley          | 1749 Grove St., Berkeley           | 94709 | 549-1038 |
| Sanctuary & Memorial<br>Fund Chairman | Dr. Albert Boles              | 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland         | 94610 | 451-6267 |
| Wildlife Film Chairman                | Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter | 406 El Cerrito, Piedmont           | 94611 | 655-9582 |
| Conservation Chairman                 | Paul F. Covell                | 2860 Delaware St., Oakland         | 94602 | 536-4120 |
| Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.               | Mrs. Bonnie Smith             | 555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco     | 94116 | 681-7635 |

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.